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# 5 Setting Forms

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**Form Fitness**

**Base Support**

**Form Setting**

**Grade and Alignment**

# CHAPTER FIVE: SETTING FORMS

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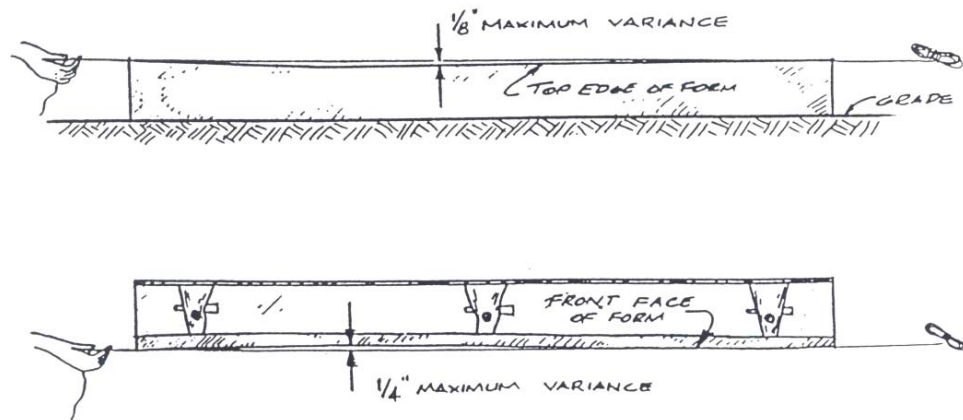
Since the quality and placement of the forms directly affects the quality of the pavement, the importance of base support, alignment, and general fitness of the forms is essential. Close attention should be paid to the variation tolerances of the forms and the methods of securing the forms to the grade.

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## FORM FITNESS

When paving is done with a finishing machine, setting the forms is a critical operation. As the forming process begins, each pavement form should be examined. These forms have often been used for quite a few years and may be in poor condition. The top edge of the forms represent the top surface of the pavement. If the form has a dip, the pavement will have a dip as well. Any form that varies by more than  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch in 10 feet along the top edge of the form or  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch in 10 feet along the face are not used (Figure 5-1).

Also, forms that are no longer capable of being securely pinned and locked are not used. If the Contractor elects to repair rejected forms, they are required to be re-inspected before use.



**Figure 5-1. Form Allowable Variance**

## **BASE SUPPORT**

The foundation under the forms is required to be firm, placed to grade, and make 100 percent contact with the bottom of the form. Any variations in the form line are required to be corrected using a granular material in lifts of 1/2 inch or less, and compacted after placed. This material is required to extend 18 inches on either side of the form.

## **FORM SETTING**

After the forms have been set to the proper line and grade, the grade is required to be tamped along the inside and outside edges of the forms.

Each form is required to have three form pins securing the form to the ground. Two of these pins are placed at the ends of the form. Each form is locked to the next form and is required to be free from play or movement in any direction. All forms are cleaned and oiled before concrete is placed. The technician is required to verify that all pin locks are secure.

## **GRADE AND ALIGNMENT**

Before placing the concrete, form alignment and grade should be compared to grade stakes. Any variation of 1/8 inch or more from the proper grade is required to be corrected. Likewise, any variation along the face of the forms of 1/4 inch or more also should be corrected. The forms are checked for stability at this time.

If distance permits, forms should be prepared at least 500 feet ahead of concrete placement. If the material under the forms becomes unstable, the affected forms are required to be removed and the base repaired.